

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



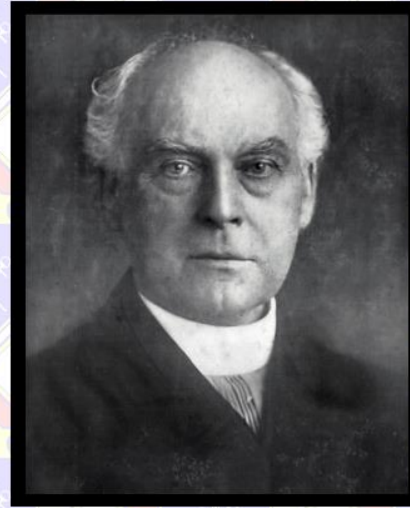
The humble beginnings of Catholicism in Montague, NJ

“Father Senez was sent to Madison [NJ] in 1846 by Archbishop Hughes. He was tireless and unwearied in searching out the faithful scattered throughout Morris and Sussex and even Warren counties. Despite his unfamiliarity with the English tongue he attended "Vendues" and gatherings of every description where our people might be expected to attend, and peering into their faces addressed those who he thought were Catholics. In one of his journeys he discovered a Catholic family in Montagu, near the Delaware River, and baptized their infant son, now the Rt. Rev. Monsignor O'Grady of New Brunswick. “

“Rt. Rev. B. J. McQuaid, succeeding Father Senez at Madison, imitated him in his zeal, and by his repeated trips became acquainted with every nook and corner that gave shelter and a home to Catholics. And, indeed, in every quarter of the county Catholics were to be found. In Montague a happy cluster always welcomed the priest; ... “

Excerpted from ***The Catholic Church in New Jersey*** by Flynn, Joseph M., published in 1904.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. O'Grady was the pastor of St. Peter's Church in New Brunswick for forty-three years before his passing on January 15, 1919 at the age of 70.



Msgr. O'Grady was a Professor of Philosophy at Seton Hall College before becoming the pastor at St. Peter's Church. He was also a domestic prelate by creation of Pope Leo XIII.

At his death, Mayor John J. Morrison of New Brunswick, issued a proclamation calling upon the people to place all flags at half-mast and the City Commission adopted resolutions of regret at his death.

<http://msgrogradyassembly.com/ogrady.html>

Rev. O'Grady, was born in Montague, NJ on July 3rd, 1849 according to passport # 24540 off Ancestry.com, which he was issued while serving at New Brunswick.

1850 Federal Census : Michael Ogradee & wife, Bridget, and son, John, age 2 living in the Brick House area. The family moved away by 1860. John began stuying for the priesthood at age 16 in Maryland and completed his education at Seton Hall College in NJ. After his ordination in 1874, he first became a private secretary to Bishop Corrigan of the diocese of Newark.



Bishop McLaughlin

Assisting Bishop Thomas McLaughlin, the first bishop of the new Diocese of Paterson (1937), in opening churches in Sussex County - Msgr. Michael Donnelly, pastor at St. Joseph's, oversaw the earliest missions. as per June 5, 1941 Sussex Register

St. Joseph's Has Two New Missions

1941

Bishop McLaughlin of Paterson Will Officiate at Opening Mass at Walpack Sunday at 9 A. M.

Monsignor Michael J. Donnelly, rector of St. Joseph's Church has announced two new missions of the church will open Sunday. They are St. Matthew's Mission at Walpack and St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, Hainesville.

Bishop Thomas H. McLaughlin of Paterson, who authorized creation of the missions after a series of conference with Monsignor Donnelly, will officiate at the opening mass at the Walpack mission, which will be in a tent in River road near ridge road. The St. Thomas's Mission is in a former public school at Hainesville Center. The chapel is just off Route S-31.

The mass at Walpack will be at 9 A. M. and 10 A. M. at Hainesville. A survey of the congregations will be made to determine the need for additional services and most convenient time for holding services the remainder of the Summer.

Sunday masses at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Culver Lake, another mission of St. Joseph's will be at 9 and 10:30 A. M. the remainder of the season. Masses at St. Joseph's Church in Newton are at 8 and 10 A. M. Sundays.



A former schoolhouse was acquired for **St. Thomas the Apostle Mission**.





The REV. JOHN E. HEWETSON

**Administrator
of
the Western
Sussex Missions
1942 - 1944**

Assigned To Rural Parish At Lafayette

Rev. John E. Hewetson, of Paterson, brother of Rev. Joseph Hewetson, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, has been assigned to the parish at Lafayette, by Bishop McLaughlin, of the Paterson Diocese, and conducted his first mass Sunday at 9 a. m. at Hainesville and at Lafayette at 11 a. m. Rev. Hewetson will live in Lafayette. His parish includes also Walpack, Montague and Sandyston.



**St. Bartholomew Church -
Chapel in Lafayette, NJ
1942 – 1951**

Also a residence for the priest assigned to the missions until Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish was established in Branchville in 1950 and later St. James added its rectory.

Father Hewetson informed the Bishop: “Last Monday morning, the Commemoration of All Souls’, we held the first Mass in the township of Montague, at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Staudt” in a letter dated Nov. 6th, 1942.

Pike County Dispatch April 8, 1943

Card Party at Staudt’s in Montague,
benefit of St. James Mission, 8:30
p. m. Chickens, cakes and other
prizes. Saturday, April 10. Donation
25c.



Staudt residence – date unknown

Rev. Matthew Sharkey was assigned to, but only stayed in Sussex County through Jan. & Feb. of 1945, before Father Warlikowski came to fill that vacancy .

Sussex Independent Nov. 22, 1945

The new parish of St. James the Great will cover the Township of Montague, and will be in charge of Rev. Francis B. Warlikowski, administrator of the Western Sussex Missions. He will continue as administrator of St. Bartholomew's Mission, Lafayette; St. Matthew's Mission, Walpack, and St. Thomas' Mission, Hainesville.



Rev. Francis Warlikowski

Administrator of Western Sussex Missions 1944 - 1950
After being appointed pastor of St. James the Great Parish in 1945, Father still oversaw the other Missions and directed the construction of a church in Montague.

1945



FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CATHOLIC GUESTS
MASS IS SAID AT ROCK VIEW EVERY SUNDAY.
WE FURNISH TRANSPORTATION TO NEARBY
PROTESTANT CHURCHES WITHOUT CHARGE.

Both priests also assisted the mission churches and are recalled by long-time parishioners.



Rev. Anthony Spano, SDB
of
Don Bosco Seminary
Newton, NJ
1949-50

Rev. Hadelin Mueller, OSB
of
St. Paul's Abbey
1950

Pike County Dispatch July 25, 1946

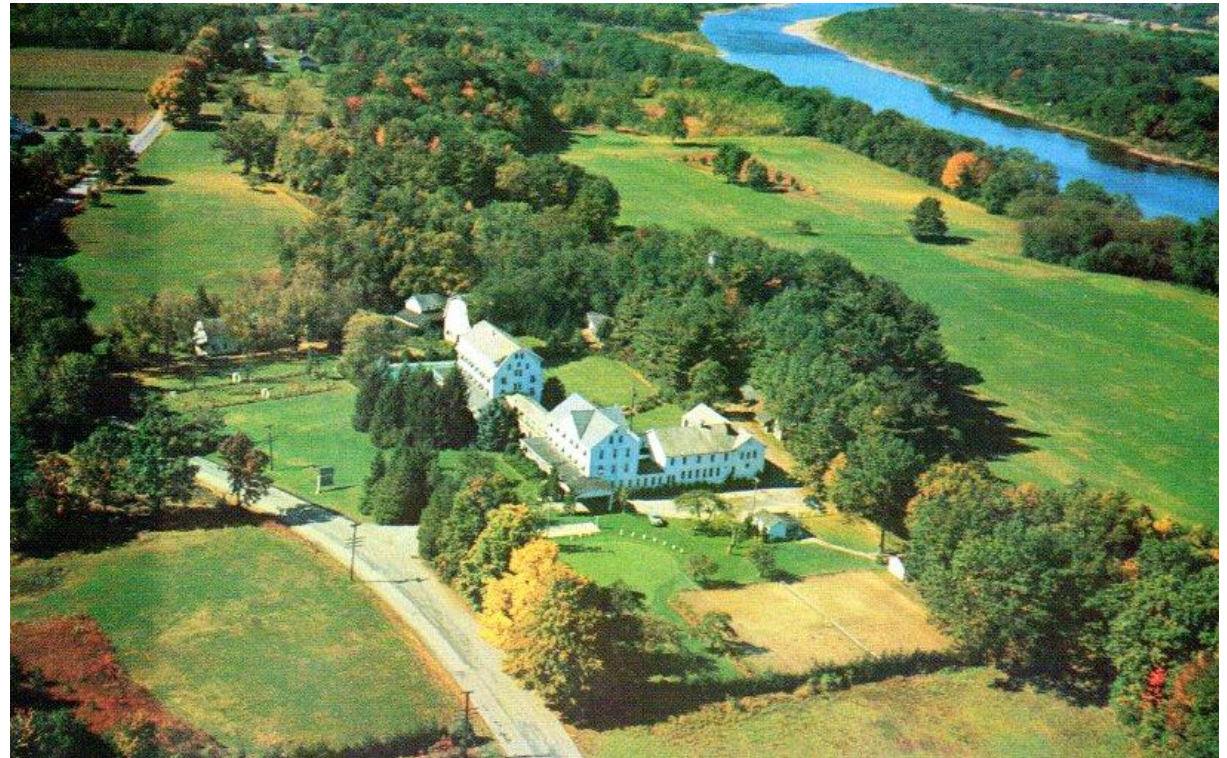
COMING EVENTS

Card Party and Bazaar—Benefit St. James Catholic Church, Montague, N. J., Wednesday, July 31. Bazaar at Rock View 2 to 6 p. m. Card Party at Church Hall 8:30 p. m. Three door prizes—chicken, duck, bottle of wine. Over 100 prizes, lots of chickens and homemade cakes. x

Annual bazaar and card party, St. James Mission Church, Montague, N. J., Friday, Aug. 1, 1947. Bazaar in Rock View from 2 to 5 p. m. Card party in church hall, 8 p. m. Door prizes, chicken and bottle of liquor. 100 card prizes including home made cakes, chickens, eggs, and other worthwhile prizes. Donation 50c. 38p

Pike County Dispatch July 31, 1947

Church was erected
in this section on
River Rd.



Program For Ground Breaking

FOR THE ST. JAMES ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH AT
MONTAGUE, N. J.

Montague Township is realizing to its credit a new Edifice of Worship in the form of a Roman Catholic Church, under the tutelage of St. James. Its situation is on the Main road to Port Jervis, diagonally opposite the Rock View Hotel.

On Sunday September 2nd, at 3 P. M., people living in Montague and its vicinity, will pilgrimage to the sight of this new church to participate in the solemn breaking of the ground. Rev. Francis Warlikowski, who administers three other mission churches in Sussex County, extends a cordial invitation to all its members, societies, friends, and committee men and women of the Montague Township. Among the invited guests, present will be the Diocesan Clergy of Sussex County, and its Reverend Dignitaries, The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Donnelly, and the Very Rev. Msgr. John Hewetson. Also present will be the distinguished guests in the person of Senator Alfred B. Littell, Assemblyman Amos F. Dixon, Port Jervis Postmaster Thomas Conroy, Businessmen, Frazier Jager, Al Aspero, George Campbell, John Bearens, Samuel Lehrer, Mr. Van Inwegen, and members of the Reinhardt family.

As to the arranged program, it will carry a religious and a patriotic atmosphere. It will be executed in the following manner: 1 Invocation by the Rev. Francis Warlikowski.

2. Blessing and Breaking of the Ground by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Donnelly.

3. Dedication by the Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hewetson.

4. National Anthem by the Congregation.

5. Address by the Honorable Senator Alfred Littell.

6. Closing remarks by the Postmaster Thomas Conroy.

In the preparation of this event huge credit is due to the following committees. Building Committee—Stephen Liptak, Mrs. Mary Lehrer, Mrs. Elizabeth Staudt, Mrs. Elizabeth Edelkraut, Miss Mary McGrath. Program Committee—Ernest Staudt, Carl Walling, John Staudt, Mrs. Agnes Bern, Mrs. Mary Malloy. Invitation Committee—Joseph Pantis, Joseph Pratschler, Frank Aschenbrenner, John O'Neill, George Zitone. Reception Committee—John Mayer, Benjamin Liptak, Peter Malloy, Miss Anna Staudt, Mrs. Elizabeth Bearans.

Aug. 30, 1945
NJ Herald

E370

Doc. No. 15246

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

To

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE GREATER, MONTAGUE.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE GREATER, MONTAGUE

NEW JERSEY) ss. WHEREAS, in

SUSSEX COUNTY,) pursuance of an Act

of the Legislature of the State of New

Jersey, approved April ninth, A.D. eighteen hundred and seventy-five, entitled "An Act to Incorporate Trustees of Religious Societies," and the Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS H. McLAUGHLIN, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, the Right Reverend Monsignor John J. Dauenhauer, Vicar-General of said Diocese, and the Reverend Francis B. Warlikowski, now being the Pastor

of the Roman Catholic Church now known as "Church of St. James the Greater," in the Township of Montague, in said County, have selected Stephen Liptak and Joseph Pratschler, two lay members of said Church, according to the provisions of said Act, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and for the purpose of incorporating said Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the said Most Reverend Thomas H. McLaughlin Bishop as aforesaid, Right Reverend Monsignor John J. Dauenhauer, Vicar-General as aforesaid, Reverend Francis B. Warlikowski, Pastor as aforesaid, and Stephen Liptak, and Joseph Pratschler, the lay members aforesaid, do further, in pursuance of the provisions of said Act, and the Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and for the purpose aforesaid, hereby certify, that the name by which we and our successors shall be known and distinguished as a body corporate, is Church of St. James the Greater, Montague.

WITNESS our hands, this 23 day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty five.

THOMAS H. McLAUGHLIN, Bishop

JOHN J. DAUENHAUER, Vicar-General

REV. FRANCIS WARLIKOWSKI, Pastor

JOSEPH J. PRATSCHLER, JR.)
STEPHEN LIPTAK) Lay Trustees.

Received and Recorded December 19th, 1945.

3:01 P. M.

COMP

Arthur L. Wilcox
Clerk.



Rev. Francis Warlikowski
Larry Staudt, Robert Murray, Dick Pratschler,
Unknown, Lottie Henn, Lorraine Zitone
1947



Rev. Mancini and a Sister from St. Mary's
Lorraine Zitone & Mary Lou Pratschler
Dick Pratschler & Robert Murray
Alice Aschenbrenner & Karen Ann Murray
1951



St. Jude Church in Budd Lake
was its architectural cousin,
built in 1946.



**Rev. Sylvius
Mancini
1950-1954**
Built rectory at St.
James by 1951
and was the first
priest to reside in
Montague.

LIFESTYLE



WALPACK MISSION — This photo of a wedding at St. Matthew's on Old Mine Road was taken on Aug. 14, 1949.

Ellen Ringle & Russell Moffett wedding
[recorded in St. James Parish Register]

*Souls 20 winter
Summer 450*

Souls: 20 Winter, Summer 450

The first Masses for St. Matthew's Mission were held under a tent.

"Little Church in Walpack"

It sat across the road from St. Ann's Rest - the Bishop's summer residence up on the hill. Early on, Masses during the off season, were likely held in private homes.



The steps from Old Mine Rd. still remain — south of Pompey Road.



Rev. Peter Byron
1954-1961

Panaghiotes Flamiatos was his actual Greek name.
Father Peter held a popular 8PM Sunday evening Mass at St. James.



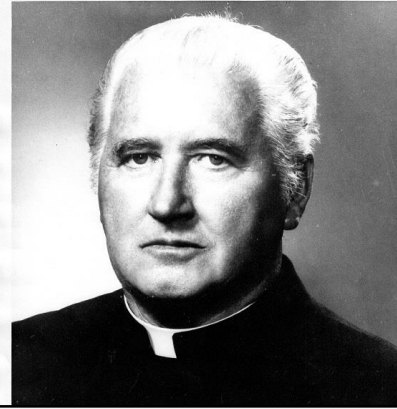
May 1954
Kenneth Sieperman on left



Aug. 1959
Rev. Byron with Mrs. Kavanaugh
& altar server, Paul Brislin.

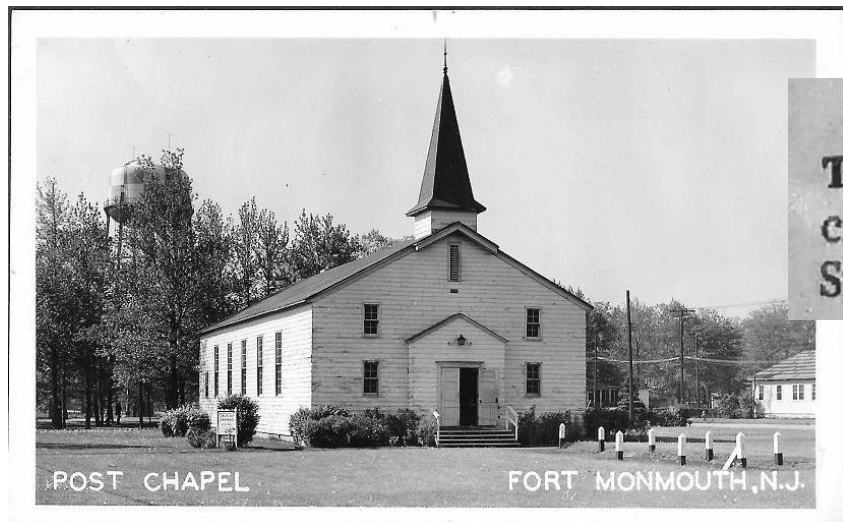


**Rev. Joseph L.
Ferrito**
Temporary
Administrator
1961- 1962,
now Rev. Msgr.



Rev. John G. Tully

First assigned to St. Matthew's Mission in 1957, and to St. James & St. Thomas in **1962**. Due to the increasing number of summer residents and visitors crowding St. Matthew's, Father opened a church in Sept. 1966 at Blue Mountain Lakes – named as Our Lady of Blue Mountain. He remained assigned here until **1967**.



OUR LADY OF BLUE MOUNTAIN, Blue Mountain Lakes, a chapel to serve this mission of St. James Parish, Montague.

A former Army Chapel.





Padre Pio with Leo Fanning (beside him),
Joe Asterita, and Mario Avignone



As pastor of St. James, Father Fanning will also serve mission churches of St. Thomas, Hainesville, and Our Lady of Blue Mountain, Blue Mountain Lakes.

Rev. Leo Fanning
1967- 1969

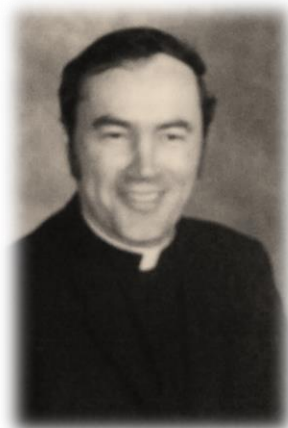
Corporal Leo Fanning served in Italy during WW2, where he met Padre Pio. When introduced to him, Padre Pio responded “It is Father Leo Fanning.” He indeed later became a priest. Minutes before his ordination he received a congratulatory telegram from Padre Pio, though he had never informed him of the exact day or time.

Father Leo M. Fanning will be pastor of St. James Church, Montague, succeeding Father John Tully, and Father Karl J. Kraus is appointed administrator of St. Matthew's, Walpack, a mission church of St. James' parish.

Summer Assistants to Rev. Fanning



Rev. Remigio G. Rocco
now Rev. Msgr.



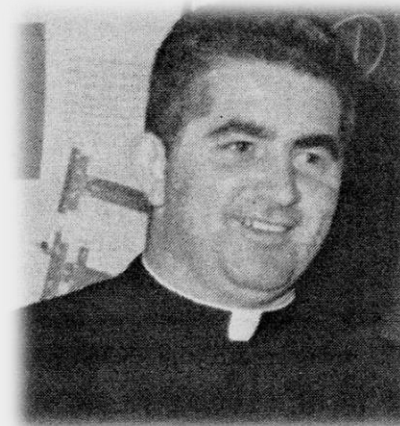
Rev. John O'Connor



Rev. James Gacquin
Summer 1969

Temporary Admin.
of St. James,
and Missions of
St. Thomas and St.
Matthew;
Director at
Pope John XXIII HS

Also assisting at St. Thomas and at the Walpack Missions until they closed:



Rev. John Boland,
now Rev. Msgr.
1969 – early 1970's

Rev. Joseph Ryan
covered occasionally
&
would return as
Parochial Vicar
1993-94.

Both were
assigned to Pope John XXIII HS



Some changes between 1960 - 1970:

[These notations were hand written in an 1962/63 Announcement book the priest carried to the churches where he was serving Mass.]

Please use the Mass leaflets and pray out loud the Prayers at the foot of the Altar up and including

The Kyrie Eleison

The Gloria, the Credo

The Orate Frates / "Pray, Brethren..."

The Sanctus, Sanctus

The Paternoster

The Domine Non Sumdignos / "Lord, I am not worthy.."

By Dec. 1st most of these prayers will be said by the people in English.

Ruling On Mass

Bishop to Permit Saturday Privilege

Catholics of the Paterson Diocese will be able to fulfill the Sunday mass obligation on Saturdays beginning April 18, Bishop Casey announced this week. The announcement made Paterson the 36th diocese out of 160 in the U. S. which have granted the so-called Saturday mass privilege.

THE BISHOP made the announcement at a meeting of diocesan pastors on Monday, noting that the Pope had given all bishops of the United States permission to institute the privilege in their own dioceses.

Bishop Casey requested that those pastors who want the permission for their parishes should apply individually, stating the particular needs of the parish. The permission would also apply to days preceding holy days of obligation.

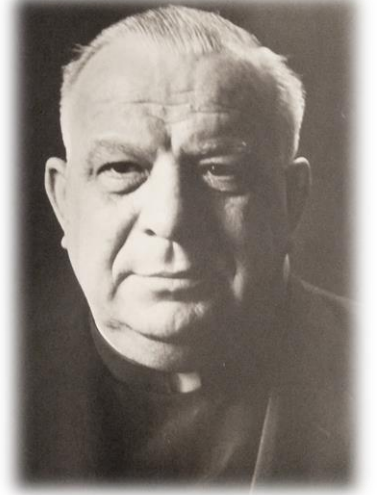
Attendance at Saturday mass between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m., the bishop said, will free members of the diocese from attending mass on the following Sunday.

"The new ruling," he said, "should make it possible for Catholics to celebrate more easily the day of the resurrection of our Lord."

Rev. Michota named new pastor at Montague church

Archbishop of Paterson Lawrence Casey announced this week the appointment of the Rev. Thaddeus Michota as pastor of St. James R. C. Church in Montague and to the missions of St. Thomas, Hainesville and St. Matthew in Walpack Center. Rev. Michota has been pastor of St. Agnes in Paterson.

Other diocesan changes include the Rev. James Gacquin as administrator at St. James in Montague to residence at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Sparta. Rev. Gacquin is director of Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta.



**Rev. Thaddeus
Michota
1969-1977**

The North Jersey Photo News
Dec. 1969



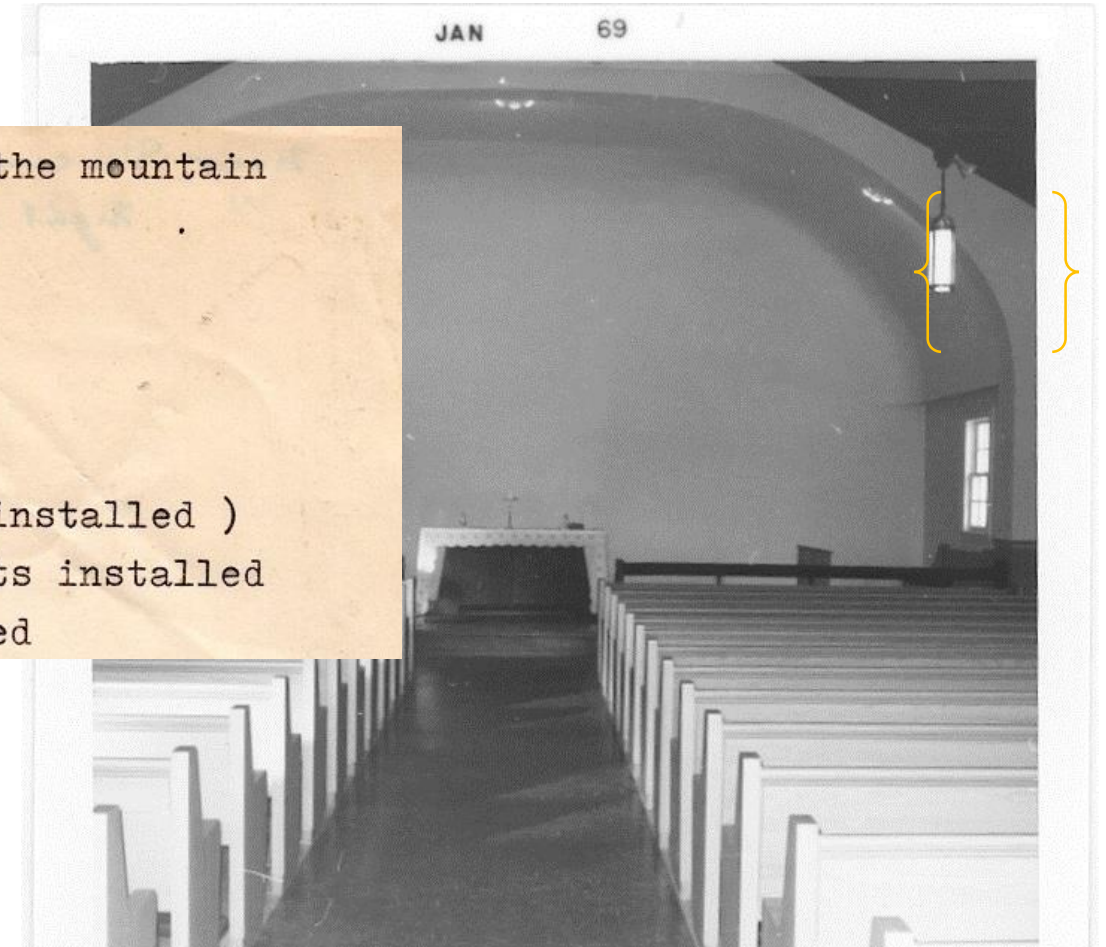
First Communion - **1970**
Note the open back pews.



L-R:
Kathleen Quinn, Mary Pollara
&
Tammy Viserta, Joanne Bea



- 1) Stripped church on the mountain
- 2) To St. Thomas:
 - a) Altar;
 - b) Cruet Table
 - c) Kneelers
- 3) To St. James:
 - a) Confessionals (installed)
 - b) 3 vesting cabinets installed
 - c) 6 Lights installed



Some items came to St. James upon the closure of Our Lady of Blue Mountain in Walpack. Pews were stored in Sparta & later acquired for St. Thomas the Apostle Mission.

Workmen Begin Job Of Moving Church

WALPACK TOWNSHIP -- Workmen have begun to dismantle Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church, which will be moved to the campus of Pope John XXIII

Sept. 1970 OLBM



High School in Sparta for use as a large group instruction area and a library.

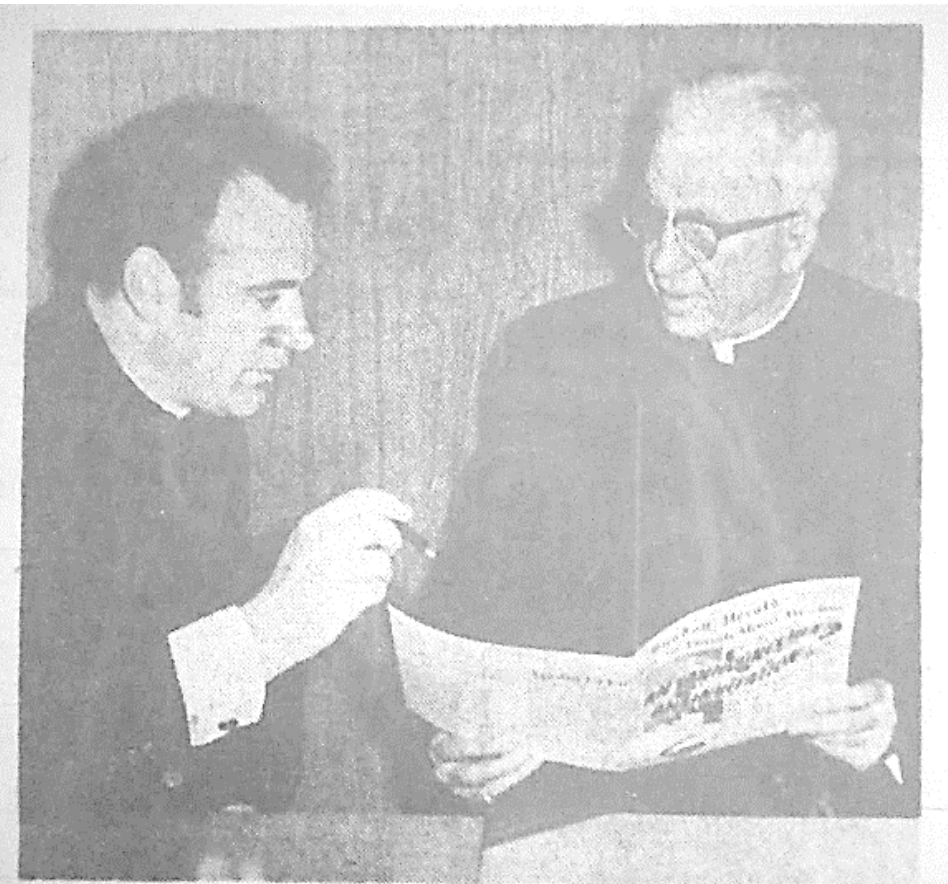
"It will relieve the present crowded conditions and it will afford faculty and students resources for independent study and research and team teaching," said Bishop Casey.

Pope John school officials hope actual moving of the church from the Tocks Island area to the school will take place in a week. The target date for completion of the change is early November.

The large instruction area will permit team teaching, large or small groups and will serve as an auditorium for assemblies, plays and concerts.

Included in the facilities will be a professional area for the faculty, a listening area for student use of tapes and records, a viewing area for individual use of filmstrips and films and space for 100 students to conduct study and research.

The existing school library seats 21 students adequately. The gymnasium-auditorium is used 100 per cent of the school day and the classroom-laboratories nearly 94 per cent of the day. This high use of facilities leaves no possibility of flexibility, school officials said.



Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, right, and Rev. James Gacquin, director of Pope John XXIII High School, review plans to move Our Lady of Blue Mountain Church to the school's campus. The building will be used as a library and large group teaching area. Bishop Casey will participate in dedication ceremonies for the new building when it is ready, possibly in November.

Father Gacquin would later return as pastor to St. James & St. Thomas following the death of Father Ted Michota in 1977.



St. Thomas the Apostle Mission Church
as enlarged ca. 1970 -71

On April 21, 1974, it hosted its first
Confirmation -
Bishop Casey also confirmed those from
St. James & the missions in Walpack.

Bishop Lawrence B. Casey

seen standing behind the back row.

Back L-R:

Unknown boy; Kathleen (Kate) Quinn [blocked]; Beverly Benson
[blocked]; Mary Pollara; Ailine Jerger; Unknown [blocked].

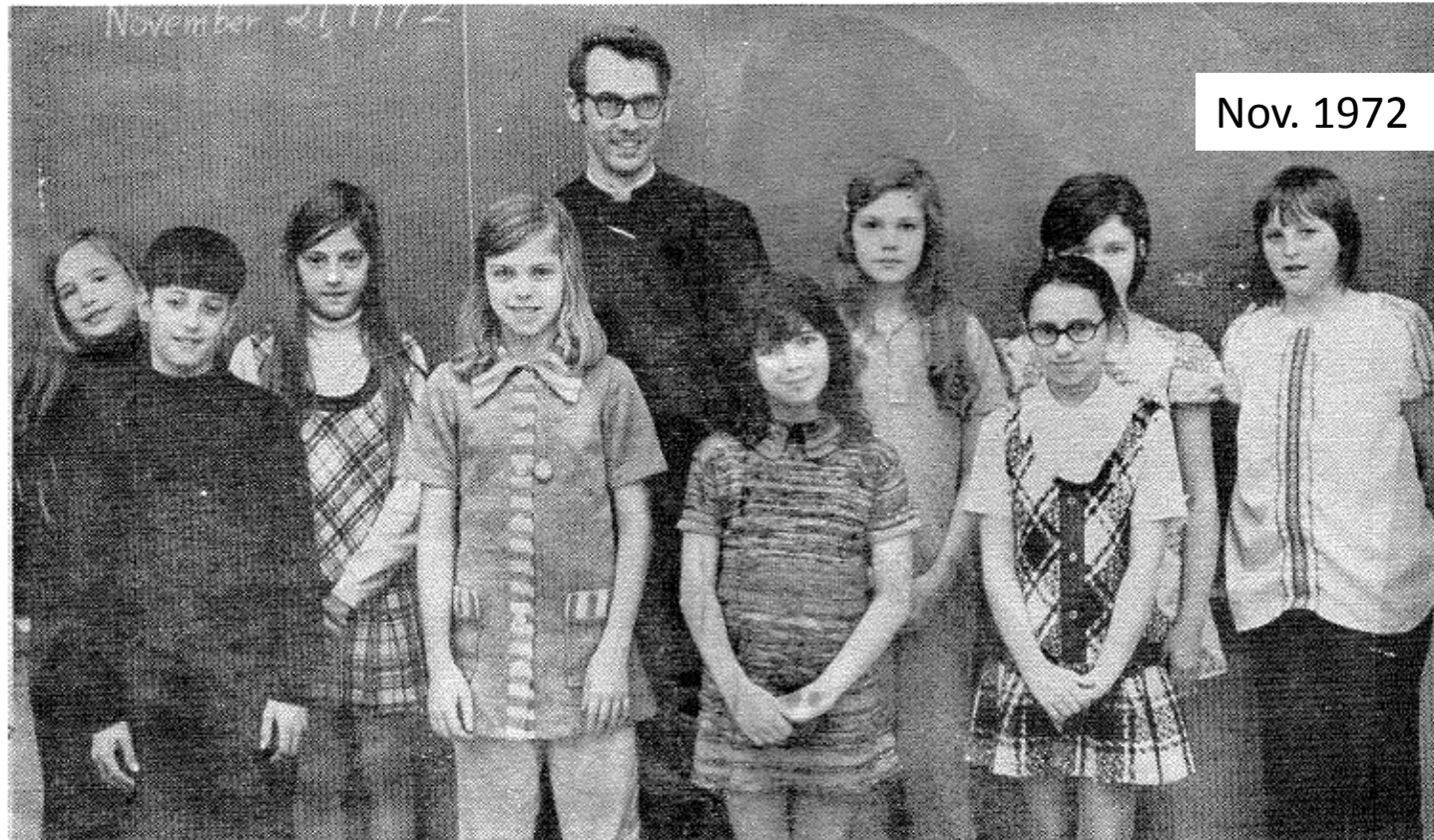


Front L-R:

2 girls facing each other are Unknown,, Tammy Viserta;
Unknown girl slightly behind them & ahead of Kate; Joanne Bea
[wearing glasses]; Melissa Babcock; Unknown; Unknown.

Brother Mark Hyde

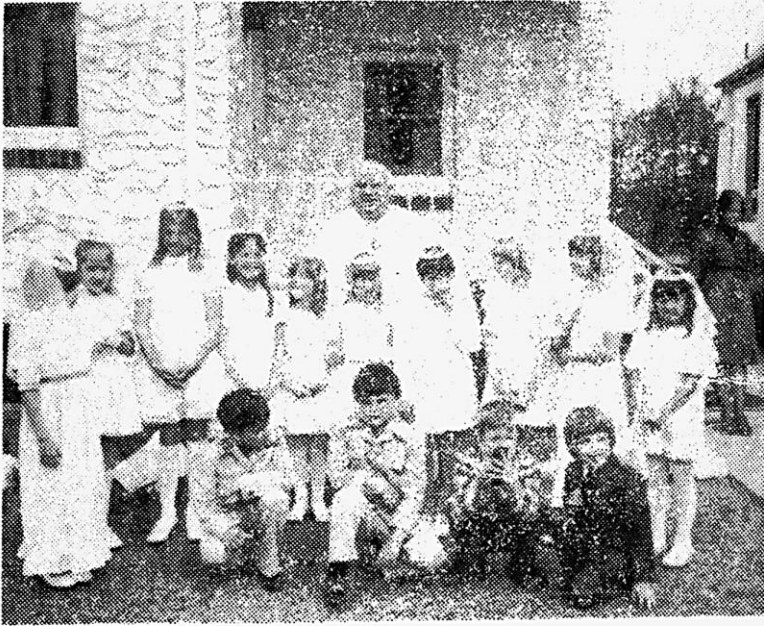
now Father Mark Hyde, SDB & the current Director of the Salesian Missions



Fifth grade C.C.D. Savios of Montague, N.J., pause from their religious instruction time for a picture with their moderator, Brother Mark Hyde.

L-R in back & front rows:

Mary Pollara, Ailene Jerger, Brother Mark Hyde, Kate Quinn, Melissa Babcock, Judy Klemm.
Daniel Glerum, Beverly Benson, Tammy Viserta, Joan Bea.



Procession At St. James Church

Sunday, May 9th, was not only a special day for mother but also for the children attending the St.

James Church in Montague. 13 boys and girls made their Holy Communion and 40 were Confirmed. Those making Holy Communion were boys and girls from Montague and Sandyston-Walpack. Father Thaddeus H. Michota was honored to have his picture taken with the children.

1976



Boys L-R: Matthew Avenatti, Charles Sharpe, Richard Hollyer, Robert Rough.

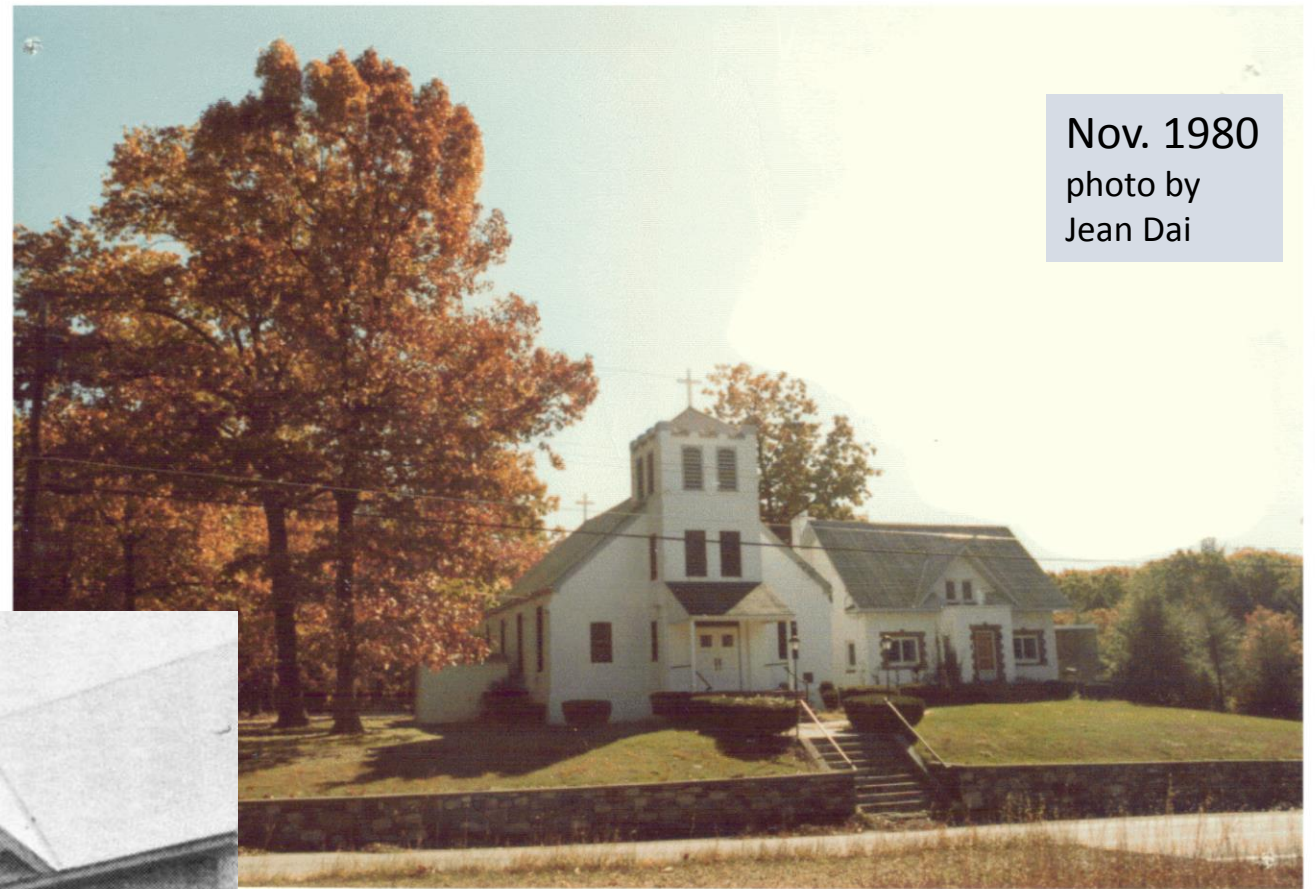
Girls as identified: 3rd and 4th from L - Patricia Benson & Jessica Perrini, 8th & 9th - Beth Olszewski & Renee Massett

St. James Church often held its First Communion and/or Confirmation jointly with its Missions, followed by a breakfast given by the Rosary Society in the parish hall.

Fr. Ted welcomed the Salesians of Don Bosco from Newton, NJ to assist with retreats and religious education.



Mark Iwanicky & Jose Monterrosa, SDB



Nov. 1980
photo by
Jean Dai

St. James Church
RD #5, Box 57
Montague, N.J.

February 15, 1981
Rev. James Gacquin, Pastor
293-3379
(In Father Gacquins absence
call Fr. Joseph Ryan at St.
Monica in Sussex. Telephone
number 201-875-4521.)

St. Thomas Church
Box 157
Layton, N.J.

1981



Rev. James Gacquin 1977-1996

Initiated
catechist training in 1978, a
Parish Council in 1979, and
Ecumenical services.

In **1989**, Fr. James Gacquin was elevated to **Rev. Msgr.**
He is shown with his colleagues, the now Rev. Msgr.
Kiernan McHugh & Rev. Msgr. John V. Boland.

At present 135 of New Jersey's 710 parishes have only one priest. In Sussex County, Msgr. James Gacquin is the pastor of two parishes, driving the 12 miles between St. James the Greater in Montague and St. Thomas the Apostle in Sandyston Township, and then regularly taking another 14-mile trip to conduct services for juvenile inmates of the Mountainview Correctional Facility in Stokes State Forest. The constant travel, which adds up to **43,000** miles a year, evokes memories of the circuit rider ministries of an earlier age and brings east a taste of what is happening today in Catholic parishes in some Western states.

Lonely Life: One Parish, One Priest

By JOSEPH F. SULLIVAN,
Published: March 6, 1993 NY Times

CHURCH SUPPORT:

St. James - 204.00
St. Thomas - 209.00



L-R Josh & Doug Sandberg,
Mike Car, & Walter Journey

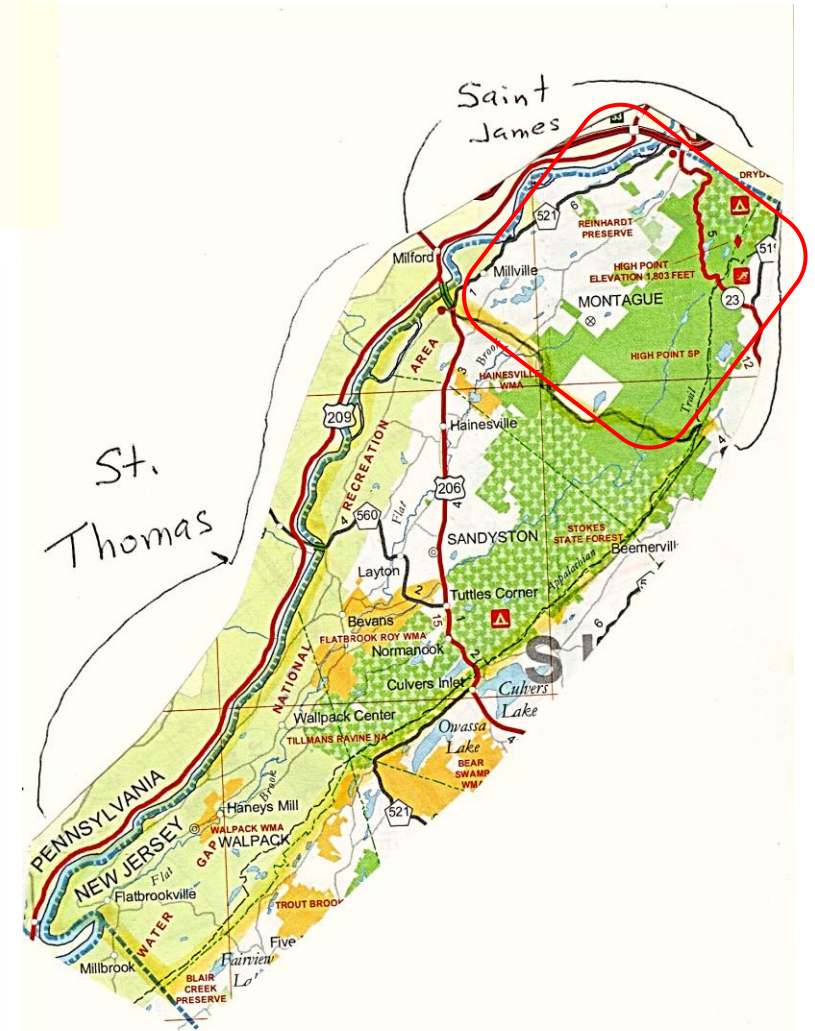


On December 9, 1987, the Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Paterson, Bishop Frank J. Rodimer elevated St. Thomas the Apostle Mission (territorially the largest in the diocese) to full Parish status.

This parish will include the faithful living or having a canonical domicile or quasi domicile within the territory embraced by the following lines:

Beginning at the point where the Deckertown Turnpike crosses the New Jersey - Pennsylvania state boundary at the Delaware River, then proceeding east on the Deckertown Turnpike to the point where the turnpike crosses the Montague Township - Wantage Township boundary; then proceeding south along the municipal boundaries of the townships of Montague, Sandyston and Walpack to the Sussex County - Warren County boundary; then proceeding west along the Sussex County - Warren County boundary to the Delaware River; then proceeding north along the Delaware River to the point of beginning.

This Decree shall be effective on Wednesday, December 9, 1987, the 50th Anniversary date for the establishment of the Diocese of Paterson.





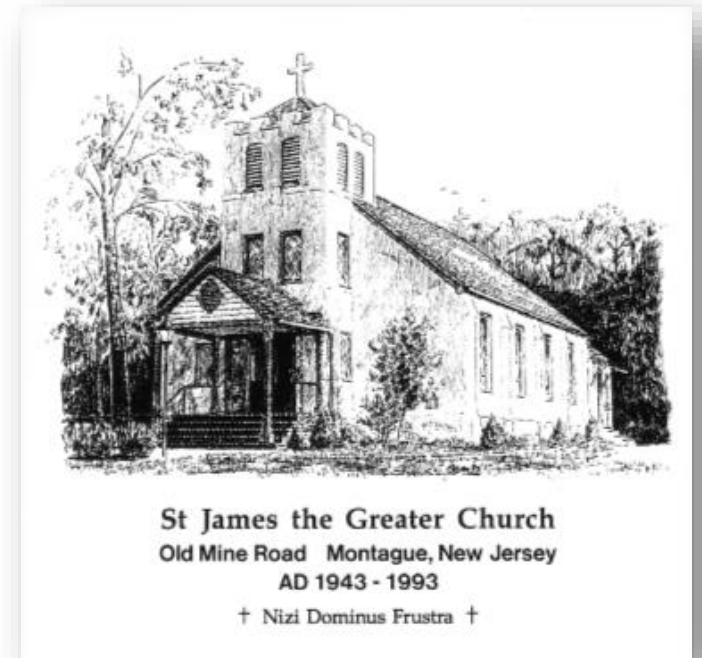
1992



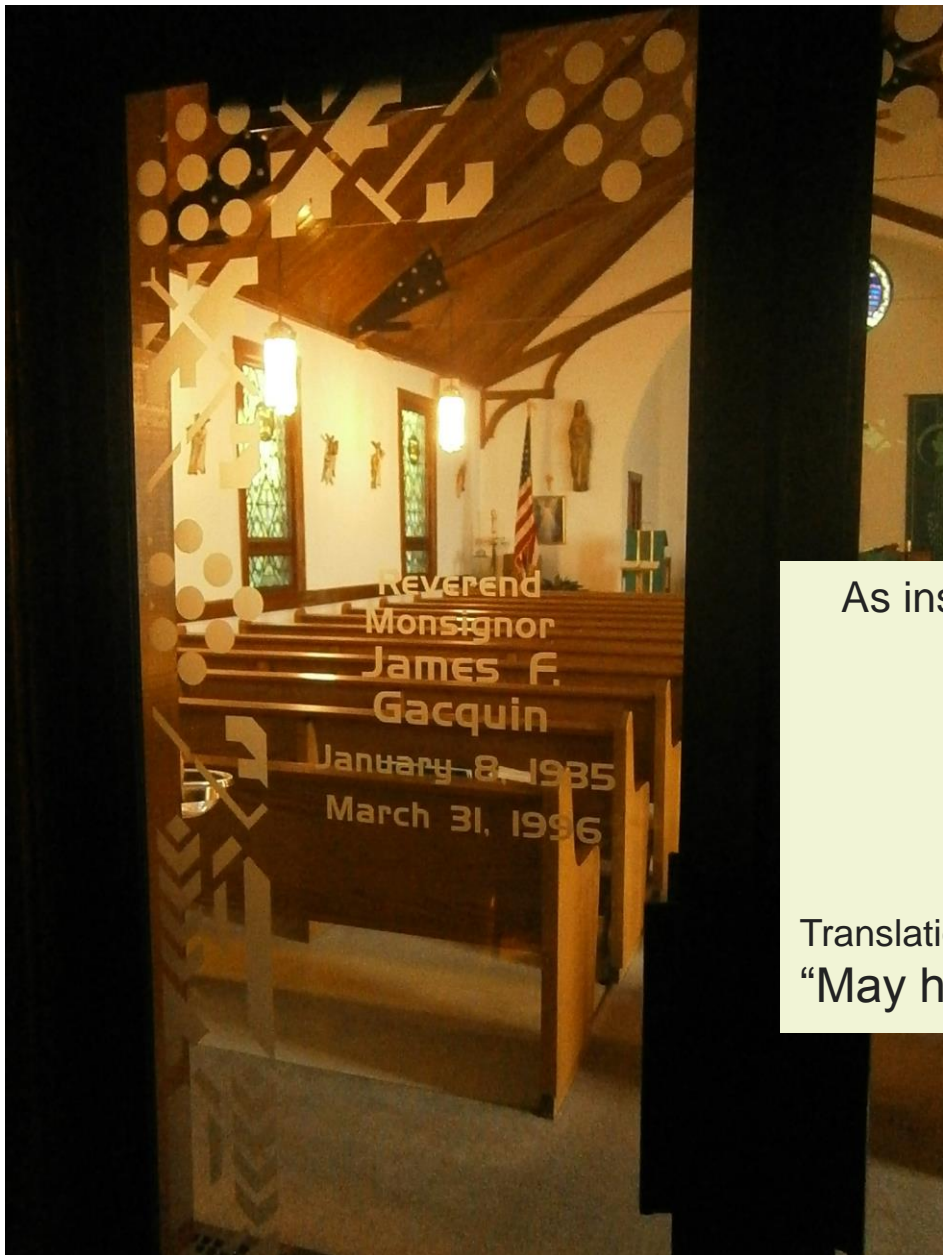
Rev. Edward P. Liptack, SDB was the first to be ordained from St. James.
He celebrated his first Mass at the church on June 23rd, 1959.



Rev. Edward Liptack SDB, Rev. Joseph Ryan, Bishop Frank J. Rodimer, Rev. Msgr. James Gacquin
at
St. James' 50th Anniversary Observance
July 24, 1993



Parish motto: +
+ Nizi Dominus Frustra +
*"Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain."*

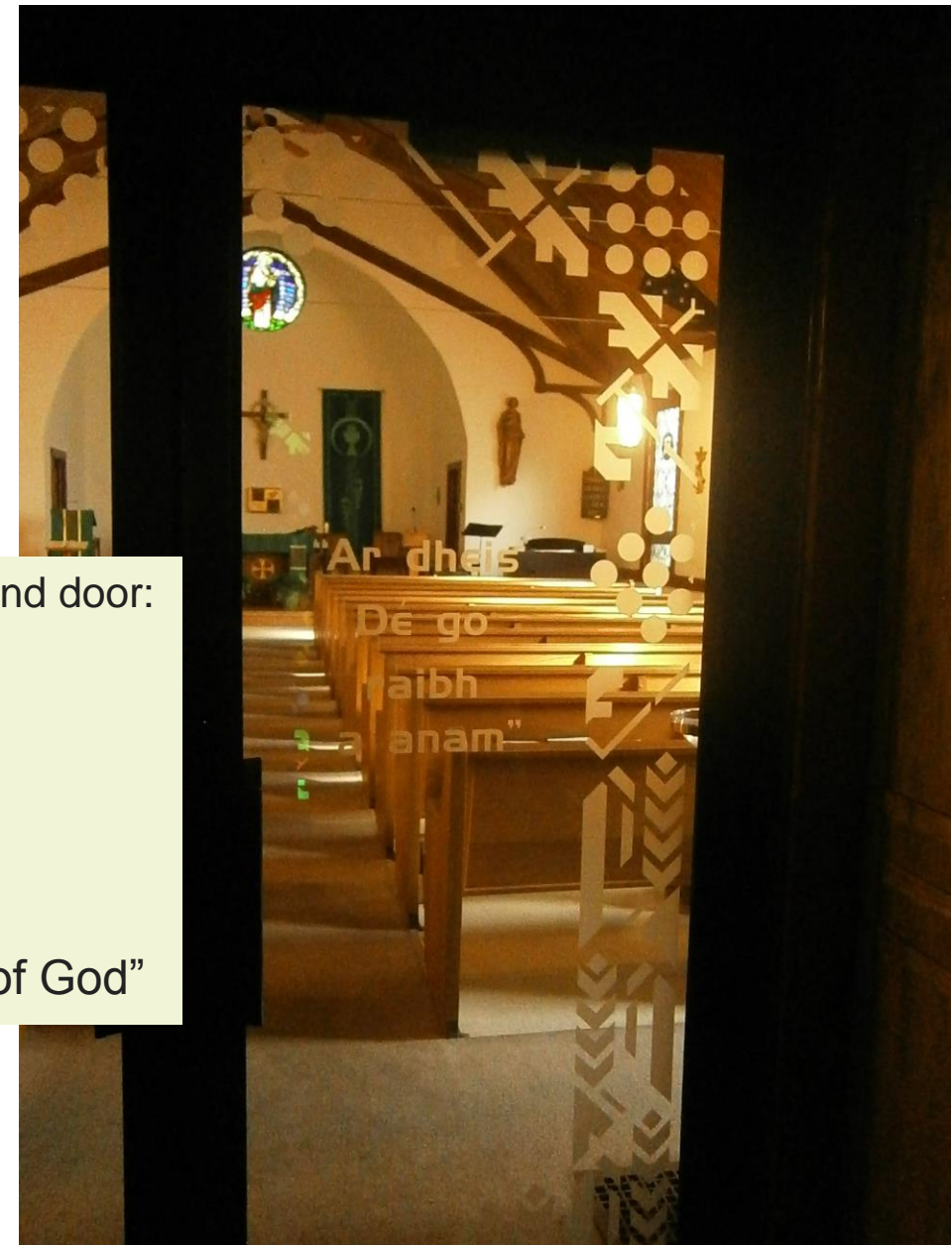


As inscribed in Gaelic on the right hand door:

"Ar dheis
Dé go raibh
a anam"

Translation:

"May his soul be at the right hand of God"



August 1996 Father Rainforth's Installation
as pastor at St. James



**Rev. Thomas Rainforth
1996 - 1997**

Administrator Named

Father Lewis to lead Montague, Layton parishes

Bishop Rodimer has announced the appointment of Father Gerald F. Lewis as administrator of St. James parish, Montague, and St. Thomas, Layton, effective March 3.

Father Lewis succeeds Father Thomas G. Rainforth, who became pastor after the death of Msgr. James Gacquin on March 31, 1996. Father Rainforth resigned as of Feb. 28.

Father Lewis was ordained a priest by Bishop Rodimer in 1988 following a career as a salesman, sales manager and vice president of marketing with a company that originated the reflective marking material used in highway safety across the country.

He was involved in the manufacture and sale of material and equipment.

A native of Bayonne, Father Lewis

was graduated from Camden Catholic High School and St. Joseph University, Philadelphia.

He studied for the priesthood at Pope John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, Mass.

Following ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Hawthorne; St. Lawrence, Chester, and Our Lady of the Lake.

St. James, founded as a mission in 1943, was elevated to parish status in 1945. It has 180 registered families.

St. Thomas — territorially, the largest parish in the diocese, serving Sandyston and Walpack Townships — was founded in 1941 as a mission and became a parish in 1987. There are 154 families registered.



Father Gerald F. Lewis

FEB 27 1997



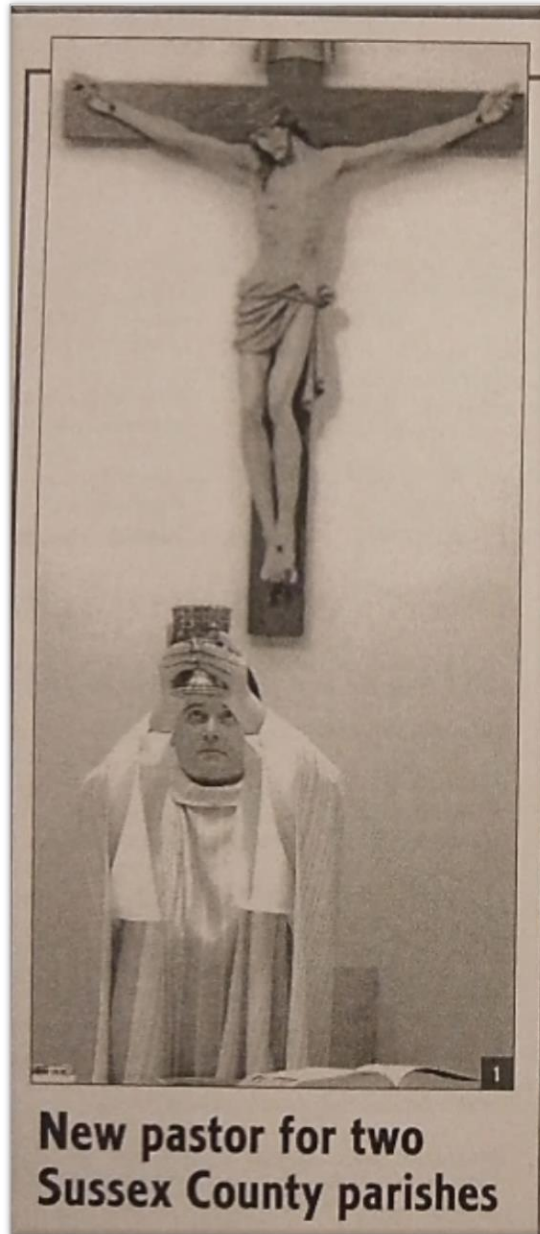
Rev. Gerald F. Lewis

1997 Admin; then Pastor 1998 - 2003

Rev. Msgr. Eugene McQuaid – was Temp. Admin. **1996** following Msgr. Gacquin's death.

Parishioner Wayne von Doehren was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on May 5th, 2001 - with Fr. Lewis in attendance.

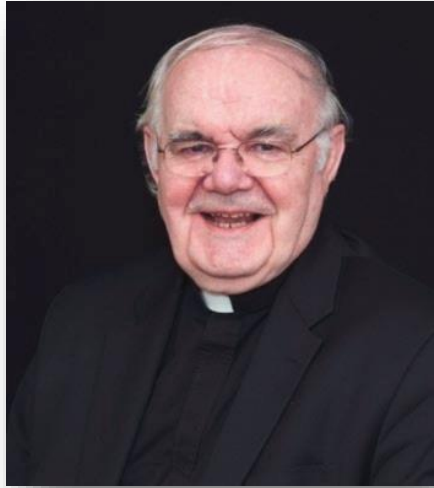




Upon Father Lewis' retirement,
Rev. A. Richard Carton
was appointed pastor:
2003-2007



On January 1, 2007,
the Monsignor James
Gacquin Youth and Religious
Education Center was
dedicated.



Rev. Msgr. Peter McHugh
Temporary Admin. **2007**



Rev. Wayne Varga
Temporary Admin. in **2002**
during Fr. Lewis' tenure,
returning as Pastor
2007 - present

In Father Varga's words:

"Let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless us and help us to prosper. May our parish community remain strong in the Lord and continue to spread the Good News of His love."

Special thanks to

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Fr. Fanning's info was located online from in Padre Pio Newsletter, Issue 31.